Wage War Against the Daily Dope of the Press. ONE PENNY.

Workers' Dreadnought

FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF EMPIRES AND FRATERNITY OF PEOPLES.

VOL. X. No. 19. SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1923. WEEKLY.

SOCIALISM.

Socialism means plenty for all. We do not preach a gospel of want and scarcity, but of abundance.

Our desire is not to make poor those who to-day are rich, in order to put the poor in the place where the rich now are. Our desire is not to pull down the present rulers to put other rulers in their places.

We wish to abolish poverty and to provide abundance for all.

We do not call for limitation of births, for penurious thrift, and self-denial. We call for a great production that will supply all, and more than all the people can consume.

Such a great production is already possible with the knowledge already possessed by mankind.

To-day production is artificially checked, consumption still more so.

How is production checked?

Production is checked by private ownership of the land, the means of production and transport. In Scotland large areas of agricultural land are turned into deer forests. In every English county numerous large private parks are kept for the pleasure of single families. Production on farms is limited because farmers lack capital to enable them to employ the labour and materials necessary to work their land fully. Landowners with capital find more profitable means of employing their capital than agriculture or stock raising. Country landowners refuse to build cottages on their estates in order to preserve their own privacy. Landowners in and about towns put up the price of land till it becomes prohibitive to the purpose of building houses for any but the rich. Vacant plots remain for years until they are bought for factories or cinemas.

Production is also limited by inability to secure raw material owing to carefully organised cornering of supplies by persons who make money by such immoral practices, and by inability to pay the prices demanded for raw material.

Production is deliberately limited in order to secure high prices for short supplies, and because the market in which the produce can be sold at a profit is limited.

Production is to a minor extent limited by the wage-workers in order to keep up the price of their labour.

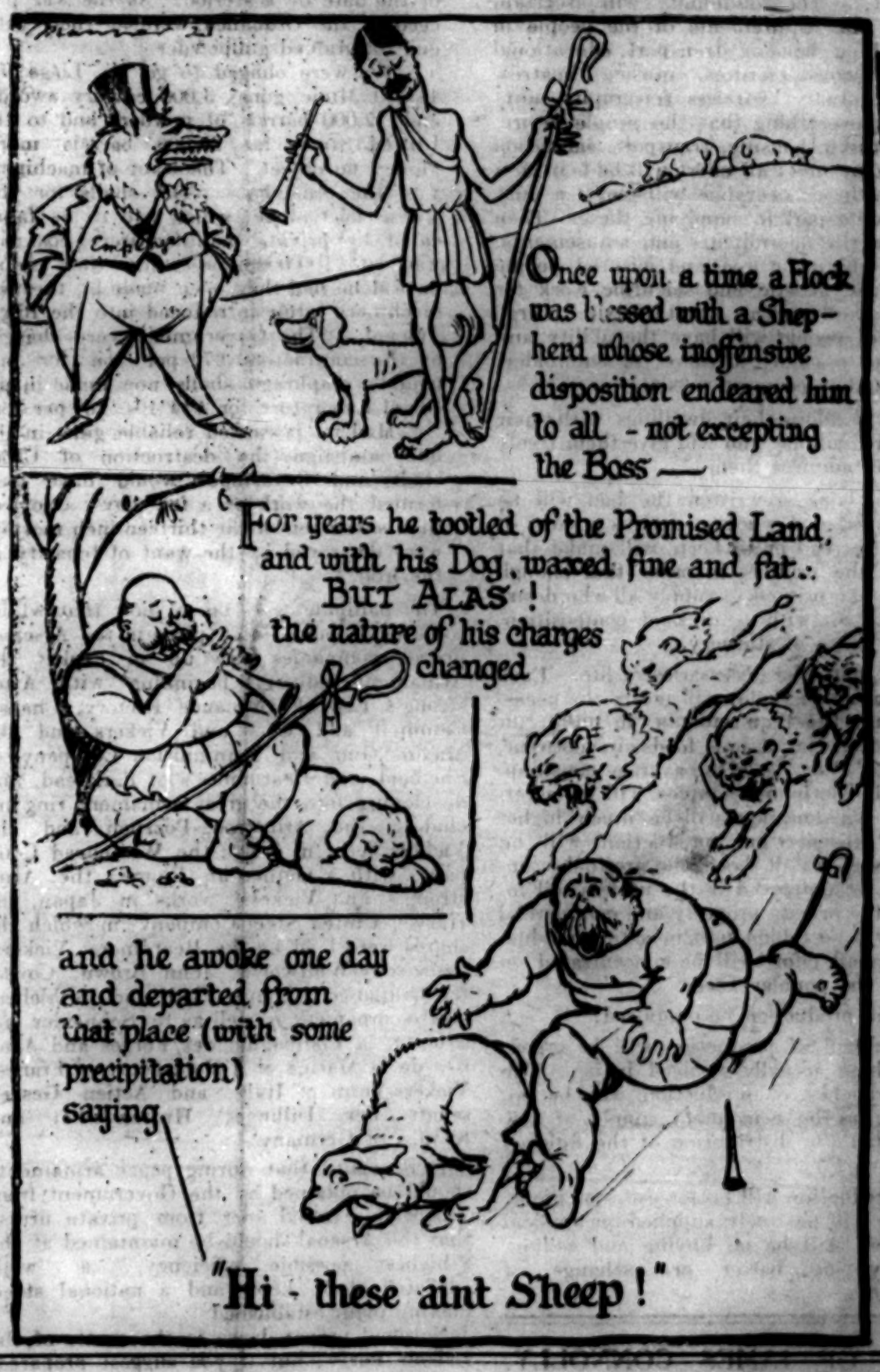
Consumption is cruelly limited by lack of means to purchase.

Our cities teem with people lacking the decencies and necessaries of life because they cannot afford to pay. Even Mr. Neville Chamberlain, a Tory Minister of Health, has admitted that a large proportion of the population of this relatively prosperous country is herded together under conditions which are scarcely human.

Entire nations are plunged into a scarcity under which the poor die of starvation, and even the middle and professional classes are reduced to hunger, because the whirligig of finance has reduced the exchange value of the currency of such nations.

Capitalism offers no hope of ending this reign of poverty.

With Reference to Recent Events.


Once upon a time a Flock was blessed with a Shepherd whose inoffensive disposition endeared him to all - not excepting the Boss —
For years he tootled of the Promised Land, and with his Dog, waxed fine and fat.
BUT ALAS!
the nature of his charges changed
and he awoke one day and departed from that place (with some precipitation) saying
"Hi - these aint Sheep!"

Millions of men and women, trained in the arts of production and transport, are unemployed, factories stand idle or run at half speed, land lies fallow, shops and warehouses teem with goods for which there are insufficient purchasers.

The majority of the population is not engaged in productive work. The greater part of the non-producers is employed in the buying, selling, and advertising of the commodities produced by the minority. A large number of non-producers is employed in administering insurance doles, pensions, Poor-Law relief, and charity to the unemployed, and to those whose wages do not suffice to maintain them. A considerable minority is living on rent and dividends drawn from the labour of the producers. This minority includes the people with a small unearned income just large enough to maintain them, and also the very rich who keep hundreds of persons uselessly employed in waiting upon them, who monopolise thousands of acres of land for their pleasure-grounds, and who sometimes consume inordinate quantities of manufactured goods to satisfy their insatiable desire for artificial pleasure and extravagant display.

This is the private-property system.

We wish to replace it by Socialism.

Under Socialism the land, the means of production and transport are no longer privately owned; they belong to all the people. The title to be one of the joint owners of the earth and its products and the inheritance of

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

collective human labour does not rest on any question of inheritance or purchase; the only title required is that one is alive on this planet. Under Socialism no one can be disinherited; no one can lose the right to a share of the common possession.

That share is not so many feet of land, so much food, so many manufactured goods, so much money with which to buy, sell, and carry on trade. The share of a member of the Socialist Commonwealth is the right and the possibility of the abundant satisfaction of the needs from the common store-house, the right to be served by the common service, the right to assist as an equal in the common production.

Under Socialism production will be for use, not profit. The community will ascertain what are the requirements of the people in food, clothing, housing, transport, educational facilities, books, pictures, music, theatres, flowers, statuary, wireless telegraphy—anything and everything that the people desire. Food, clothing, housing, transport, sanitation—these come first; all effort will be bent first to supply these; everyone will feel it a duty to take some part in supplying these. Then will follow the adornments and amusements, a comfortable, cultured and leisured people will produce artistic and scientific work for pleasure, and with spontaneity. Large numbers of people will have the ability and the desire to paint, to carve, to embroider, to play, and to compose music.

They will adorn their dwellings with their artistic productions, and will give them freely to whoever admires them.

When a book is written the fact will be made known, and whoever desires a copy of it, either to read or to keep, will make that known to the printers in order that enough copies may be printed to supply all who desire the book. So with a musical composition, so with a piece of statuary.

So, too, with the necessaries of life. Each person, each household, will notify the necessary agency the requirements in milk, in bread, and all the various foods, in footwear, in clothing. Very soon the average consumption in all continuous staples will be ascertained. Consumption will be much higher than at present, but production will be vastly increased; all those who are to-day unemployed, or employed in the useless toil involved in the private property and commercial system, will be taking part in actual productive work; all effort will be concentrated on supplying the popular needs.

How will production be organised?

Each branch of production will be organised by those actually engaged in it. The various branches of production will be co-ordinated for the convenient supply of raw material and the distribution of the finished product.

Since production will be for use, not profit, the people will be freely supplied on application. There will be no buying and selling, no money, no barter or exchange of commodities.

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From the "Dreadnought" Bookshop.

FROM THE PUBLISHER.

War or Peace. The National Control of Armaments. By Gilbert Slater, M.A., D.Sc. (Pioneer Press, New Road, Woolwich, 6d.) This is another of the many arguments designed to secure social righteousness within the capitalist system. The author shows that when the Crimean War was fought the Government relied on the private trader for munitions.

The result was reported to Parliament on May 8th, 1855 by Sir John Anderson:

"On the outbreak of the Russian War there were not shells enough in the Arsenal to furnish forth the first battering train that went to the East, and the fuses were of the date of Waterloo. As the war proceeded, the Ordnance were at their wits' end for grained gunpowder.

"We were obliged to go to Liége for 44,000 Minie guns, 3,000 cavalry swords, and 12,000 barrels of powder, and to the United States for 20,000 barrels more. Money no object. The want of machinery was the difficulty. The shells for the Baltic fleet alone, which had to be fabricated by private manufacturers, cost upward of £100,000 more than they would have done had they been made by the new machinery lately introduced into the Royal Arsenal. The Government were charged by the contractors £78 per ton for six-pounder diaphragm shells, now made in the Royal Laboratory for £14 10s. 2d. per ton.

"Had we possessed reliable guns in the late campaign, the destruction of Cronstadt and Sevastopol would have only formed the work of a few days. No less than seventeen of the thirteen-inch mortars were destroyed by the want of tenacity in the iron."

The pamphlet goes on to show that whilst some development took place in the Arsenal, private companies grew up to exploit the Armament industry, beginning with Armstrong's Elswick Ordnance Factory, Charles Cammell and Co., and Vickers and the Maxim Gun and Ammunition Company of Sheffield, and Beardmore's of Parkhead, and developing into the great armament ring including the Armstrong-Pozzuoli and the Vickers-Terni in Italy; the Whitehead Company, with a factory at Fiume, the Armstrong's and Vickers' works in Japan, the Harvey United Steel Company, in which the shares were held by the Beardmore, Vickers, Armstrong-Whitworth, John Brown, Coventry Ordnance, Thomas Firth and Bethlehem steel companies, as well as by Schneider and Creusot, la Compagnie des Forges and Aciéries de la Marine et d'Homecourt of France Vickers-Terni of Italy, and Actien Gesselschaft der Dillinger Huttenwirke, and Krupps of Germany.

It is argued that during peace armaments should be obtained by the Government from Woolwich Arsenal, not from private firms; that the Arsenal should be maintained at the "highest possible efficiency," a "well-educated staff" kept, and a national steel-making plant established.

National preparedness is the motto of the Labour Party; but if you suggest preparedness by the workers the Labour Party turns pacifist at once and declares for industrial peace. The pamphlet is a bit of special pleading on behalf of the Arsenal employees.

The Dominant Sex: A study in the sociology of sex differentation, by Mathilde and Mathias Vaerting, translated from the German by Eden and Cedar Paul. (George Allen and Unwin, 10/6.)

The theory expounded by the authors is that the dominant sex imposes standards of morality and conduct upon the subordinate sex; which the dominant sex does not accept for itself, and which come to be thought the essential characteristics of the subordinate sex. The dominant sex is, according to the authors, the sex which rules for the time being. They declare that there is a perpetual swinging of the pendulum between male and female domination. They assign the domination by male or female to no underlying cause. They have no explanation for it save this, which is not an explanation:

"If the bow has been overstrained, if the power has been pushed to the pitch of absolutism, the pendulum movement is reversed."

Yet, in another connection, they quote Aristotle, whose view of the cause of woman-rule is definite:

"Contentious and warlike nations such as the Lacedemonians are always under women's rule."

The authors base their contention mainly upon records of the ancient Egyptians, Lilyans and Spartans, and from the practices of existing primitive peoples living under woman rule.

They show that where women rule, the woman is the wooer, the man brings the dowry, the divorce laws favour the woman, conjugal fidelity and pre-matrimonial chastity are expected from the man rather than from the woman, no stigma is attached to the illegitimate child, and a woman is often honoured for bearing children out of wedlock. The woman has the sole right of disposing of the common possessions, property descends to her, the children take her name and social position, the husband adopts the wife's name, he is domestic whilst the wife's occupations are outside the home, the man adorns himself, the wife dresses soberly. The men are regarded as more kindly and benevolent, but less intelligent than the women. If, in the case of savage tribes, mutilation of children or infanticide takes place, it is practised on boys, not girls.

In the effort to prove their case, the authors strain several points when referring to the Army. They write as though it were quite common to-day for women to join the armies. Taking the Amazons and Prussia as "perhaps the two most perfect instances of monosexual dominance known to us," they say:

"No men's State ever enforced the dominance of men with the same perfection of absolutism as the legendary Amazons are said to have enforced the dominance of women. The Amazons went so far as practically to exclude men from the national life. . . . Their army consisted solely of women soldiers. The Amazons went so far as practically to exclude men from the national life."

We must observe that a case based on legend is hardly unassailable. The authors continue:

"In Prussia, just as among the Amazons, the monosexuality of the fighters was guarded with the utmost strictness. During the late war . . . many of the other belligerents formed women's corps. . . ."

This is decidedly far-fetched. When we find the authors so straining contemporary events, our confidence in their veracity, where ancient records are concerned, is shaken.

Nevertheless, we must admire their industry and observe the wealth of authorities and original sources from which they quote. In support of their statement that under woman rule in ancient Egypt the women court the men, they cite the fact that this is so in fifteen out of the nineteen Egyptian love poems in the so-called London Manuscript.

They quote two ancient Egyptian Papyrus marriage contracts separated by nearly three hundred years, but of similar import. In the older document the wife says to her husband:

"Should I divorce you because I have come to hate you and because I love another more than you, then I will give you etc., etc."

The husband has no right of divorce. This is the opposite of the practice under man's rule, lately modified in Britain.

The report of Jaeckel is quoted that among the Ahantis the husbands of the priestess

must die at the death of their wives; also that of Bossu, who states that among the Natchez the princesses of the ruling race could choose as many lovers as they pleased, all of whom must follow the princesses in death.

As to the monarchy, the authors state that sometimes the kingship is partially or completely reserved to the members of the dominant sex. Sometimes a member of the subordinate sex is chosen, in order to check the monarchical power, when this is regarded as a menace by the magnates of the country. Some of the earlier nations of America are said to have chosen women as monarchs, though the mass of women were despised and ill-treated. The authors contend that Sparta was a Woman's State, though its nominal rulers were men.

"After the death of his queen, Thothmes I. had to abdicate in favour of his daughter Hatshepsu. The latter took over the Government, although her father had at least two sons of about the same age as herself."

The authors dwell on the obliteration of the names of Egyptian women sovereigns practised by their male successors. Manetho, the earliest known Egyptian history writer, included a number of women's names amongst the Egyptian sovereigns. Diodorus mentions five women sovereigns. Yet in the names of the rulers engraved in the temples of Thebae and Abydos these women's names are omitted. In the statues of Queen Hatshepsu her robes have been changed to men's robes, her names have been erased and replaced by masculine names.

It is generally accepted that Hatshepu's successor, her brother and husband, Thothmes III., walled in her obelisk and obliterated the names of the queen and her assistants, including the architect and engineer who erected the obelisk. It is accepted that Tholmes did this in order to obliterate the rule of a woman.

The action could be understood if this act of Thothmes were not against a single queen, but against a system of society in which men were held in subjection to women.

Certainly, though they may have strained a point here or there, the authors are right in their contention that women have been at a certain stage the dominant sex, at least among some races; and if among some, why not among all?

The moral of the phenomenon is that the sex, class, or race which monopolises property is able to dominate the propertyless without the possession of any superiority in mental or physical capacity; also that the subordinate sex becomes physically and mentally stultified.

TRULY RURAL.

Jimmie, the organiser, was addressing the crowd lying around on the village green. In the background stood the empty "Pub," to which a gentleman in a dogcart drove up. He speedily received the polite attentions of a voluntary ostler and mine host, the former taking the horse's head while the latter brought out the "wet."

(The village labourers have long gone dry.)

For some ten minutes or so the gentleman in the dogcart sat and refreshed himself, quietly taking his glass, and with it taking in the village meeting, if one might judge from the cynical expression of his unmoved features.

Unmoved, too, was the crowd—to a superficial observer. But it was the quiet of the mouse, hoping thereby to escape the attentions of the cat.

Not a sound was heard, except from the paid organiser, who now seemed to be addressing the dead.

"His men work till eight o'clock when he gives them the order, and don't get a penny extra," was explained to the chairman afterwards. Not one of them was in the Union. Not one at the meeting "don't expect." If one of them was, one would know what to expect, and there's more ways of killing a dog than hanging him.

Victimisation has become a fine art, managed by the most up-to-date methods, the old-fash ioned being obsolete.

The guest returned and returned to the waiting landlord, the volunteer ostler let go the horse's head, and away went the gentleman in the dogcart.

A farmer who arrived on a bicycle now created a little stir. He would keep asking Jimmie questions. Not that Jimmie answered them. Jimmie didn't. He just went on with the music, once only turning round to clench a villager's retort.

"What's the Labourers' Union done with the men's money?" asked the farmer.

"I've had some of it," answered one of the strikers.

"You'd better ask the Farmer's Union what they have done with some of your money," added Jimmie.

"Take no notice of him," was Jimmie's advice to the men. "He seems to be one of those gentlemen who inherited money from their grandfathers."

Jimmie was only saying something, but it happened to be just right, and the crowd were delighted.

"That's it," they cried. "That's right; that's just right. That's just what he did."

How pleased they were, to be sure! At that moment they were all inheritors. Their man had drawn a bow at a venture and made a bull's eye—at the enemy's expense.

How they laughed—all dry, too, and from haynelds without a shade temperature.

Jimmie finishes his address as the sun sinks in the West; and he and his chairman, a neighbouring star, adjourn to "The Crown" for a glass of bitter before mounting their steeds for a long run home.

They find things "merry as a marriage bell" upon their return to the green. A labourer's wife is shaking her fist in the face of the offending farmer and letting him have it "nineteen to the dozen"—to the joy of all the gentlemen present, who, of course, dare not do it themselves, but are delighted to support with cheers, jeers, laughter, and loud applause the lady who did.

But she is not laughing. She swears like a man.

"You'd —— well know something about it if you'd got to live on it," she shouted, the fierce fist following the enemy's retreat. "You've never known what it was to divide a herring among three!"

"Well done, Mrs.!" said the chairman, smiling and saluting, as he, too, took the road and "left her alone in her glory"; very much alone, one fears, although the mother of thirteen sons, one killed in the war.

A. K. H.

LESSONS FOR PROLETARIAN SCHOOLS.

THE MIDDLE STONE AGE.

In an earlier lesson we explained that the coming of the Ice Age caused an advance in the progress of primitive man.

With the coming of the cold he must find a shelter for himself. Unable to build a house, he took refuge in caves, and there he and his descendants lived for thousands of years. Those habitations have been found in many places, and excavations have proved their immense antiquity. At Grimaldi on the Italian coast of the Mediterranean, accumulations 30 feet deep have been found on the rock floor of a cavern inhabited by generations of early men. These accumulations are in ten successive layers. Amongst these are nine layers of ashes. The ashes of the household fires which must have been kept going for many years. On the rock floor first come layers of the bones of animals, rubbish, and rocks supposed to have fallen from the roof of the cavern in the house of ages. Then follows a layer of ashes, then more bones, rubbish, rocks. So the accumulations are built up with nine layers of ashes between. In the lowest layers, before the ashes are reached, are to be found the bones of the rhinoceros, showing that the climate was warm. Then came the Ice Age, and therefore in the upper layers are reindeer bones. In the layers above the ashes five human burials were found, in one of which were two children. The human bones found there are believed to have belonged to several diffrent races which are thought to have followed each other in Europe during the Stone Age.

In a single cavern in Sicily the bones of more than two thousand hippopotami have been dug out, killed by Middle Stone Age hunters. In France accumulations of wild horse bones have been found, covering a space of 200 by 800 feet six feet deep.

Among such deposits excavators have found the tools and weapons of early men. On the roof and walls of the caverns even their paintings and carvings have been preserved. Remarkably vigorous and decorative carvings have been found of the reindeer, fish, the bison, the ibex, the wild horse, boar and bull, the long extinct mammoth showing its long hair and tusks, as well as the human figure. These Middle Stone Age works date from at least 10,000 years ago.

A hundred years ago British explorers discovered on the island of Tasmania a people who wore no clothing, could not build a house, had domesticated no animals, could not raise a crop of any kind, could not make pottery. They could make a fire for warmth and cooking. Their only weapons and tools were of wood and stone chipped by percussion, their only utensils were of woven bark fibre. They had a simple language. Probably, like some present-day natives of Australia, they produced fire by inserting a round dry stick in a hole in a dry tree trunk and turning it rapidly with both hands till the friction generates enough heat to produce flame.

Such peoples are far behind the men of the Middle Stone Age.

The Middle Stone Age man shaped his flint tools by pressure instead of by blows or percussion. He had learnt that by pressing with a piece of hard bone he could chip off flakes from the edge of his flint tool and produce a much finer cutting. He gradually produced a variety of tools—chisels, drills, hammers, polishers, scrapers. With the now sharp flint tools he could shape bone, the elephant's tusks and the reindeer's horns. Great herds of reindeer had been driven northward by the ice. They furnished the early hunter with flesh for food, skins for clothing, and horn for tools and weapons. Man learnt to make ivory needles, spears with wooden shafts and heads of ivory, bows and arrows and daggers of flint, throwing sticks of horn or ivory, a tool made from reindeer horn, for straightening his wooden spear-shafts, the throwing stick of horn and ivory, which enabled him to propel his spears further than he could otherwise do. The throwing stick has a groove in which the spear shaft lies, and a hook at the end. The hunter holds the throwing stick as he thrusts his arm forward and allows the spear to fly off. These tools and weapons came to be elaborately carved.

The Middle Stone Age man was defter with his hands than many a board-school educated clerk or porter of to-day.

The Middle Stone Age people buried their dead in their customary garments within a rough circle of stones with some flint implements beside them in the floor of the family living cave, where the family fire was burning, where the spoils of the chase were cooked and shared.

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Our View.

U.S.A. versus Japan. Britain and Holland.

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT that the British and U.S Governments are preparing for an early war with Japan—"our late Ally," as that country is now described. The Washington Agreement prohibits further fortifications and bases east of a certain point. Japan is a signatory to the agreement, and east of that point cannot build without breaking the agreement. If she does so, she gives her rivals the cause of offence they desire in order to whitewash their purposed aggression in the eyes of their own populations. Meanwhile, Britain at Singapore, and America in Hawaii, are preparing great bases of war. Holland, who was not included in the Washington pact, is also building great naval bases, at a cost altogether enormous for a small nation to undertake.

Holland, a neutral during the war, was accused by superficial observers of friendship with Germany. Yet during the war the great Dutch oil company, the Royal Dutch, amalgamated with the British Shell Oil Company, and so manipulated its affairs as to secure the protection of the British flag. Since the war the rich oil concessions of the Dutch East Indies have been given to British capitalists.

Obviously the British and Dutch Capitalisms have made common cause in the world oil scramble. Holland has probably been given to understand, as Belgium was, that she must choose either to give allegiance to certain Great Powers, or meet the opposition of those Powers at every turn.

And France? Will France agree to the extermination of Japanese power by Britain and America, and the further subjugation of the East by them? Or will the French seek to retain Japan as a buffer against Anglo-Saxon aggression?

On the decision of that issue rests the question whether the next war will be mainly one of the White against the Yellow races, or whether the two White powers who face each other as rivals across the Channel will come to violent grips in the next few years.

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The Dock Strike.

THE WALKING OUT when Messrs. Bevin and Gosling appeared at "Premierland," Poplar, to address the revolting members of their Union, was a striking demonstration. Nevertheless, we are regretfully obliged not to rate its value very highly. The dockers have gone into this strike without the support of their Union. They have gone in without an alternative organisation. If they emerge from the strike without having created an alternative in the shape of a rank-and-file workshop organisation; if they have not learnt the need for such an organisation, they will have achieved little and learnt little from the strike.

Many confusionists have been busy during the strike telling the dockers that their Union is all right, and that all they have got to do is to "watch" their leaders, control their leaders, and "make them fight." Alas, it is not so: the proposition is by no means so simple.

The bedrock actuality of the situation is that the rank and file of a trade union cannot control its officials, cannot even watch them efficiently. The trade union machinery does not allow of it. The workers can only control an organisation which is a workshop organisation with, when necessary, delegates appointed for specified work instructed, subject to recall, remaining still as fellow-workers in the shop—paid no more than loss of time and bare out-of-pocket expenses.

We stress these points: they are important. The work and power of the organisation must not pass into the hands of even such delegates: it must be an organisation operated by the workers in the shop. What is leadership? someone asks. Leadership consists in a more alert observation, a quicker foresight, a greater energy, and the capacity to communicate these to others, so that they also are alive to the situation; they also move in response to it, as self-motiving, understanding beings.

A workshop organisation presents the opportunity to be an independent intelligent co-operator in the common struggle to all the workers. It presents the only such opportunity.

What are we struggling for? Is it merely to lighten the oppression of the load, to bind up the limbs that are galled by the fetters? Is it not rather to cast off the load and break the fetters?

Under Capitalism the many are the driven herd; the exploited and the oppressed.

Under Communism, under Socialism, the herd must be transformed into co-workers associating for a common purpose.

When the great change comes; whether it comes by enactment, or by force, one thing is certain: the provision of society's basic needs must be reorganised from the foundations to the apex. The dumb driven herd must become the masses of co-operators or there is no Socialism, no Communism—only another variation of the drivers and the driven.

Some believe that only the herd and the driven can ever be—therefore they advocate State Capitalism with its wagery; therefore they say all that is required is an extension of the State Post Office and municipal system as at present conducted.

Others have a truer vision of the ultimate goal, but do not realise that we are not living in a world of magic transformation but of growth and development, and that the creation of the society of co-workers is the greatest part of our task.

Some believe that the change from Capitalism to Socialism will be catastrophic, but not realising the great importance of the co-working principle, their minds turn only towards capturing power: their thoughts play with subtle tactics and surprise stunts for capturing votes and executive positions, and with guns for imposing the will of officials elected by some fluke upon reluctant masses.

Some believe that the capture of a Parliamentary majority will bring Socialism by enactment, imposed by official regulations backed up by police and military.

The dreams of securing Socialism by any imposition from above will prove vain, for Socialism is the creation of a society of co-workers.

Reverting to the organisations of the present day, it must be remembered that the higher Trade Union officials are appointed for life, and are only subject to dismissal for the accepted forms of misconduct; also that the Trade Unions are entirely sectional in their structure, and that instead of preserving the vaunted unity of the working class they prevent it by dividing the workers into watertight compartments.

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The Guardians and the Strikers.

CERTAIN BOARDS OF GUARDIANS have refused relief to strikers, but others have given it on their family, is higher than the usual scale, which, for a large earnings of the docker, who can seldom count on being fully employed all the week. As wages fall and Poor-Law relief becomes as high, or even higher than wages, strikes are bound to become more frequent and are certain to be prolonged. Woolwich Guardians may remain adamant, but other Boards in the dock area, and especially Poplar, the heart of dockland, are enabling the dockers to remain out on strike with little or no financial loss. Under such conditions the strikers can remain out indefinitely. Why should they not? Why should the workers in other trades refrain from joining them?

A speaker of the C.P.G.B., who is President of the West Ham Trades Council, told a dock gates audience that he was appealing to Trade Union branches for funds to help the strikers. It evidently did not occur to him that he would have helped the strikers more efficiently by appealing to those branches to join the dockers in their strike. Yet the same speaker declared that there was no question of hunger in this strike, for the docker could often get more from the Guardians than from the employer.

How does the Government, acting on behalf of the employer of labour, regard the maintenance of strikers by Boards of Guardians? The Government must find the position somewhat annoying. Will the Government presently take steps, either legislative or administrative, to put an aid to that situation? Will a Local Government circular be issued prohibiting such expenditure, or will the Guardians be presently surcharged without warning, or will a short Act of Parliament be rushed through?

If the Government should take steps to prevent the maintenance of strikers by Boards of Guardians, what will the Guardians do? Will they manfully stand to their guns and go to prison for the right to relieve strikers, or will they desist?

As to the Trade Union officials who have ordered the men back to work, what will their attitude be? Will they uphold their Labour colleagues in a struggle for the relief of unofficial strikers to whom they, as Trade Union officials, have refused strike pay, or will they give the Government its blessing and bring pressure upon their colleagues to refuse relief?

The situation is interesting. As it develops it will again demonstrate the fact that the workers cannot afford to leave their interests in the keeping of Labour officials.

• • •

Supernatural Nonsense.

IN PERIODS OF ECONOMIC depression, war, famine, and all calamitiestous and untoward happenings people of certain temperaments turn in despair from the hardships of this world to place their faith in a hereafter free from trouble. That has always been the case. Such weakness of mind springs from the same longing to escape from present difficulties, which causes people to commit suicide, though to bury one's intelligence in imaginings about the supernatural affords a less practical solution for the individual than suicide.

It is exceedingly strange and sad that many persons of education in times of mental depression and perplexity should accept as truths the imaginings of primitive peoples conceived in distant ages long before humanity had arrived at our present knowledge of science and natural phenomena.

It is to be regretted that the only daily paper in this country which is supposed to stand for the cause of the workers, however imperfectly, should show itself ready to open its columns to any cock-and-bull story about ghosts, magic, miracles, spiritualism, dreams, premonitions and prophecies—as well as to to Churchianity and superstition of all sorts.

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Parliament As We See It.

ARAB SEAMEN.

It was pointed out that Arab seamen are engaged for British vessels and discharged in this country, whence they are unable to return to their native lands. The Government will do nothing. The Arabs are required to keep down labour costs, and when it is more profitable to discharge them they are dumped anywhere.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

The Pensions Ministry is busy reviewing and cutting down the pensions of widowed mothers whose sons were killed in the war.

"SOME" SALARIES.

The British, Italian and Belgian delegates to the Reparations Committee get 100,000 gold francs a year (£4,000) and an allowance of 20,000 gold francs (£800).

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

Professors and lecturers in Scottish Universities and secondary, chapter G., and graduate teachers in Scottish schools are paid as follows:

Men.	£
Graduates (minimum)	200
Chapter V. teachers (minimum)	250
Assistant teachers	660
Headmasters	1,150
Women.	
Graduates (minimum)	180
Chapter V. teachers (minimum)	200
Assistant teachers	550
Headmistresses	1,000

INFANT MORTALITY.

1912.—Legitimate children, 91 per 1,000; illegitimate, 181 per 1,000.

1922.—Legitimate children, 74 per 1,000; illegitimate, 139 per 1,000.

The slaughter of the innocents.

INDIAN LOANS.

The committee stage was taken of the Indian Loans Bill, giving power to the Secretary of State for India to raise up to £50,000,000 by loan in Great Britain for Indian railways, the work to be done by the Government or through a private company or committees.

Sir R. Hutchison, of Mr. Lloyd George's National Liberals, moved a resolution that £75 per cent. of the money must be spent in this country. Mr. Lloyd George supported the motion with one of his characteristic woe unto the nation that does not take my advice speeches. He declared this country is being run according to the bankers' policy; he wanted it run in the interests of the manufacturers. The Government, the Free Liberals, and the Labour Party opposed the motion on the ground that if the Indian Government were obliged to buy in this country a ring would instantly be formed to raise the price against the Indian Government. That is a pretty stiff condemnation of the Capitalist system, but its upholders overlooked that point.

IGNORANCE OR DECEPTION?

Mr. Tom Shaw (Lab.), the cotton operatives' M.P., made some very absurd remarks, at which the capitalists must have said: "This fellow out-does us in lying." He said:

> "The secret of the British power in industry is not the sword . . . it resides . . . in the confidence of the great dumb mass of the people of India that their interests are perfectly safe in our hands."

Since the Labour Party favours State Socialism, one might have expected the Labour Party to move an amendment that the State should do the railway construction itself, and not through private companies; but the Labour men contented themselves with supporting the individualist Free Traders.

NORTHERN IRELAND.

In the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill the Government included the Irish Labourers' Act, 1883, amongst the measures it wishes to keep alive. It transpired in the course of debate that Northern Ireland is unable to legislate for itself on many intimate domestic concerns: it has less freedom from Imperial rule than the so-called Free State.

In spite of protests, the Government retained the war measure empowering coroners to dispense with juries in holding inquests.

ALIENS.

The Government also retained the war-time aliens restrictions.

Mr. George Lansbury (Lab.) declared that this legislation had been passed at the instance of Mr. Bottomley. Captain Fitzroy, the Deputy Chairman, protested: "I do not think we need refer to Mr. Bottomley."

Mr. Pringle (Lib.) observed that Mr. Bottomley shared the "honour" with Mr. Ben Tillett (Lab.), Sir John Butcher (C.), and Mr. Lloyd George, and with Sir Ernest Wild, who has now been given a judicial post.

Captain Evans (C.), replying on the Government behalf, said:

> "England to-day is the only nation that stands for civilisation in Europe. If we are to have people coming here and poisoning the minds of our people. . . ."

That means that the established order is strongest in this country, and the movement against Capitalism weaker. This is a reproach we must strive to remedy.

Captain Evans argued that the restriction of alien immigration is in the interests of British labour. To admit immigration freely would flood the labour market.

Mr. Lansbury: "We are all agreed about that."

Under Socialism all work will be welcome.

Mr. Kirkwood (Lab.) referred to the Union Jack as "that rag," and was called to order by the chair.

Mr. Walton Newbold asked whether those who had made profit out of the flag were protesting because such speeches would spoil the goodwill.

Unfortunately, such speeches do not affect the position at all—they are but gas.

SCOTTISH EDUCATION.

The latest Scottish Education Bill still further eliminates democracy from the sphere of education. It provides that education committees need only meet once in three months. There is a triennial election to the county education committees. Candidates stand as local reprsentatives of the county committee. Parliament was reminded of the inaccessibility still obtaining in parts of Scotland by Mr. Johnston (Lab.) that it takes some members of the education authority in Argyleshire three days to get to the meeting, and three days to return. The meeting lasts a couple of hours. The school management committees are reduced to the position of dummies.

The real management of the schools is in the hands of the executive officer, controlled by a bureaucratic central authority.

Both teachers and children are in the grip of a red-tape bureaucracy with a strong eye to cutting down the cost of education.

Under Socialism the teachers actually engaged in the schools will organise educational services. Parents and children will consult with them on terms of fraternity. The children will take a large share in the organisation of school work.

SNOWDEN, GEORGIA AND SOVIET RUSSIA.

Mr. Snowden arose as the champion of Georgia against Soviet Russia. He complained that Georgian clergy have been thrown into prison for refusing to sign a declaration that religion is free in Georgia, and asked what the British Government means to do about it. Mr. McNeill, the Tory Under-Secretary for foreign agairs, replied that diplomatic pressure upon Russia would be no use.

Mr. Snowden then urged that should the question of recognising Soviet Russia arise, the British Government should make the independence of Georgia and other border States a condition.

Mr. McNeill replied that he could give no such pledge, but if it was any satisfaction to Mr. Snowden that he should express his personal concurrence with Mr. Snowden's view, he would do so gladly.

OUR EDUCATION AND THEIRS.

At the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, 355 persons are employed to look after 227 students.

In the elementary schools there are classes of 50, 60 and 70 children to one teacher.

NO DOLE FOR DOCKERS.

The Chief Insurance Officer has decided that owing to the dock strike all dock workers are disqualified from unemployment benefit.

AMERICA'S "DEFENCE."

America spent on militarism and navalism:

1913-14.—"Defence," 316,308,000 dols.; Army and Navy pensions, 173,251,000 dols

1922-23.—"Defence," 675,046,000 dols.; Army and Navy pensions, 252,350,000.

LOANS TO CROWN COLONIES.

Loans to Crown Colonies in 1921-2 included £21,615,068 to the Straits Settlements, £10,035,693 to Ceylon, £13,609,209 Nigeria, £7,319,118 to the Gold Coast, £5,000,000 to Kenya, £4,759,907 to the Federated Malay States, £3,995,214 to Jamaica, £3,995,214 to Jamaica, £3,205,901 to Trinidad, and so on, 23 loans being granted in all to Crown Colonies.

These loans are to make the Colonies more profitable to the private capitalist, whose business is assisted by Government finance.

ADMIRALTY VOTE
SINGAPORE NAVAL BASE.

Mr. Lambert (Lib.), moving a reduction of the vote, said in 1914 there was one official to 70 fighting sailors; to-day there is one official to 28 fighting sailors. He considered that shows demoralisation in the Admiralty.

Foundations of immense future expenditure are being laid: a new dockyard, establishment stations all over the world, the Singapore naval base.

Mr. Lambert asserted that the British Government had broken the spirit of the Washington naval limitation agreement. That agreement had stipulated that until the end of 1936 there should be no new fortifications or naval bases east of the meridian of 110 east longitude. Singapore was at 104 east longitude, only 350 miles outside the prohibited sphere.

The agreement had specially stated that there should be no extension of fortifications or naval facilities at Hong Kong, in order to limit British agression in the East, and especially towards Japan.

Captain Burney, and other Admiralty representatives, replied that there was no breach of the Washington Agreement, since Singapore is outside the prohibited area. They asserted that the Conference knew the Singapore base was intended, and even that it was contemplated, before the war.

Mr. Lambert said he was at the Admiralty before the war, and never heard of the project. Mr. Asquith, who was Prime Minister, had not heard of it.

REVELATIONS BY ADMIRAL SIMS.

As to the submarine, Mr. Lambert declared that the British Empire had been nearly defeated through their use by Germany. He quoted the United States Admiral Sims, who in an article in the "Fortnightly Review," said that in April 1917 the Germans were winning the war, and that the British Admiralty gave American representatives figures to prove that unless the destruction of merchant shipping were checked, the British must surrender within a few months. Admiral Jellicoe had said: "It is impossible for us to go on if losses like this continue."

The question is whether the British Government lied to the U.S. delegates or to the

British public, or whether Admiral Sims is untruthful.

WINSTON CHURCHILL WANTED HIS OWN WAY.

Captain Burney said the ravages of the submarine were largely due to Mr. Asquith's failure to appoint a war staff at the beginning of the war. Instead of that, he had sent Mr. Churchill to the Admiralty, who did not appoint a war staff because he could not have had all his own way had he done so.

To Members who declared that the Singapore base would be impractical for use against Japan, or to protect Hong Kong, its defenders replied that it would be of great use for those purposes. Yet they also argued that it is too far from Japan to be regarded as a menace to her.

HOLLAND'S NAVAL BASE.

It was pointed out that Holland has replied by building, at a cost of £25,000,000, a naval base at Tanjong Priok, and two subsidiary bases at Sourabaya and Rhio, the latter is only 10 or 12 miles from Singapore. This seems like a British invasion of the Washington agreement by arranging that a little country within the orbit of British influence shall establish a great naval base to reinforce the British sea power.

Commander Bellairs (C.) observed that the Americans are making a new naval base at Pearl Harbour Hawaii.

NEW WAR ENGINES.

The question of capital ships versus aircraft, submarines and mines, was hotly debated. Mr. Lambert contended that the capital ship is virtually obsolete, and that the naval base at Singapore would be useless, because the capital ships working from there would be powerless against coastal mines, aircraft and submarines.

Captain Burney replied that in his opinion capital ships will be obsolete in 20 or 30 years' time. He said that the submarine can do comparatively little, as yet, against surface craft, because its speed is slow under water. Nevertheless, he himself has invented a submarine which can do 40 knots under water. Whilst experimenting with it, he found that with a certain shaped body the submarine can move faster under water than on the surface. Only two-thirds the horsepower is required, but it must remain a considerable space under water. To secure its practicability an engine that can be worked without oxygen must be invented.

As to aircraft, Captain Burney said he favours lighter-than-air ships which can carry large numbers of aeroplanes to the point where they are needed. Much experimental work must, however, be done before these will supercede the sea battleships carrying aeroplanes, which are now the principal hobby of the Admiralty.

Captain Hay (Lab.) said the Singapore base must be protected by not less than 2,000 artillery and 2,000 infantry, and that it could, even then, easily be taken by land by the Japanese.

SHAM PACIFISM.

Lady Astor, the Tory who is the hostess of Labour leaders when they dine with Royalty, and was an extreme jingo in the last war, said:

"If I thought the policy of this Government, or any other Government, was to make war, or in any way to encourage war, I, as an ordinary woman, would vote against it."

She insisted, however, that one must have police and

"If we are to have the progressive civilisation we are asking for, the Anglo-Saxon race will have to police the world. . . . In asking the Government for a strong Navy, I feel I am speaking not only for the British Empire, but for the Far East. . .

THE BIBLE AND THE BATTLESHIP.

I am getting most of my news from the Far East **from missionaries, and they say it makes a great difference to see a great battleship belonging to England. . . .**"

ESPERANTO.

Lesson 25.

PREPOSITIONS. (Cont.)

Per, by means of. Ni vidas **per** la okuloj, we see **with** (by means of) the eyes.

Pri, concerning. Li parolis **pri Komunismo,** he spoke **on** (about, concerning) Communism.

Anstataŭ, instead of. Li parolis **anstataŭ** mi, he spoke **instead of** (in place of) me.

Pro, because of, owing to. Si ploris **pro** plezuro, she wept **with** (because of, on account of) pleasure.

Por, for the benefit of, in favour of). Ĉu la libro estas **por** mi? Is the book **for** me? **Por** before an Infinitive (form of the verb ending in -i) means **in order to;** e.g., **Por** konstrui domojn, la urbo bezonas krediton (in order) to build houses the town needs credit.

La (after words denoting **quantity, measure**) of; glaso **da** vino, a glass **of** wine; taso **da** teo, a cup **of** tea.

De fundamentally means **from** (a point or place), but it also means **of**—e.g., **la** capelo **de** Johano, the hat **of** John, John's hat. It is also used after the form of the verb ending in **-ata, -ita, -ota** (passive participles), and then it is translated **by.** La domo konstruita **de** Jak, the house built **by** Jack.

For de means **away from. For de** tie ĉi, Away from here!

Ĉe mi, li, etc. These expressions mean: At my house, at his house, etc. The idiom is derived from the French.

Finally, a very curious, indeed a unique, preposition in Esperanto is **je,** which has no definite meaning! Other languages at times use any one preposition with six or more meanings. To avoid this, the author of Esperanto used the preposition **je** to translate such relationships as cannot be expressed by any of the other prepositions. **Je** should be used very sparingly when no other preposition will meet the case.

Je la dua (horo), **at** two o'clock; li ridis **je** mi, he laughed **at** me. Li ridis **al** mi would mean: He laughed **to** (towards) me (in my direction); li ridis **pro** mi, he laughed on my account (**because of** me). Neither of these exactly translates: He laughed at me, li ridis **je** mi. Instead of the last form we can use: Li ridis **min** (without a preposition)

Vocabulary.

Ni	we
propagandas	propagates
ĵurnalo	a newspaper
parol-ad-o	speech
faras	do, make
uz-ad-o	use
efektivigi	to bring about, cause to be real
tuta	whole
mondo	world
frat-ec-o	brotherhood
mortas	die
malsato	hunger
dum	while
manĝas	eat
mono	money
neniom	none ("of no quantity")

Ni propagandas la Komunismon **per** paroladoj kaj **per** ĵurnaloj; **per** voĉo kaj **per** plumo (voice and pen). **Per** Esperanto ni povas korespondi **kun** laboristoj **en** la tuta mondo. **Anstataŭ** paroli pri la **internacia frateco,** ni faras ion (something) **per** la uzado de Esperanto **por** efektivigi ĝin. Komunismo signifas la produkton, ne **por** profito, sed **por** uzo. **Sub** kapitalismo, multaj (many) mortas **pro** malsato, dum aliaj (others), manĝas tro multe. For **de** ni **kun** via parolo pri la danĝeroj de Komunismo! La Rusa Sovjeta Registaro (Government) ekzistas jam (already) **de** preskaŭ (almost) ses jaroj. Oni dis-radiis ("broadcasted") la paroladon **je** la 9a. **Da** mono mi havas neniom; **da** espero (hope) mi **havas multe.**

CONDITIONS OF NORFOLK LABOURERS.

Dear Comrade,—

You ask for news of the Norfolk agricultural labourer.

Recently my mate attended a meeting of the Board of Guardians. Fifty unemployed were applying for work, and the Guardians did not know what to find them to do. One brave man said: "There's plenty of work to be done in the barley. I saw docks and thistles in some of the fields on my way here this morning."

"The small farmer can't afford to pay for the labour," said one of the small ones.

"More can't the big ones," said one of the big ones.

And so the unemployed run to waste like the land of our birth, the land we village folk love so well.

"People of England, all your valleys call you."

The words go to our hearts. And

"I love the land to labour on, although there's none for me,"

is Holy Writ to us.

"Any oranges this morning, ma'am?" asks a man with a basketful on a bicycle. "Got no work, though there's plenty wanting doing over the other side of the hedge."

I buy some, and find the fruit very refreshing. My poor brother seems to be doing a little bit of trade, too. He and his oranges are the genuine thing. Moreover, we are "fed up" with thread and bootlaces, and our pennies are not so plentiful as they were when "Your country needs you!" made us all fancy that it really did.

Well, it doesn't now.

The Norfolk man, we who know him, love so well, may now go to—the Guardians, his wife to the asylum, or the horsepond, as some of them do when they give it all up in despair.

A. K. HIGDON.

Burston,
July 19th, 1923.

WHO WERE THEY?

Dear Comrade,—

I was standing at the Mound in Edinburgh on July 14th, listening to an anti-Parliamentary speaker. He was criticising the Communist Party for its reformism, and during his speech he stated that two officials of the Dockers Union, who were members of the Communist Party, had refused to support the strikers. He said the information could be had by reading the "Workers' Dreadnought," which was on sale.

I purchased a copy, but in reading the article under the nom-de-plume of "Blanket Stiff" I found no names mentioned.

If the "Dreadnought" claims to be out for the whole truth, why doesn't it publish the names of the officials who are members of the Communist Party?

This ought to have been done when the Communist Party speaker denied that the two officials were members.

Mere assertion is not proof, and the omission of names from the article leaves us very much in the dark. Will your correspondent please give the names of the officials referred to?

Yours fraternally,

"INTERESTED."

"Blanket Stiff" replies that the two officials in question are Fred Thompson, secretary of the Docks Group Committee of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Fred Potter, assistant secretary of the Docks Group.

The Lord Mayor of Liverpool says there is not much room for alleviating the lot of the men in blue.

Why doesn't he join the force, then?

We think the policeman's lot is the worst of all.

INDIAN NEWS.

AHMEDABAD TEXTILE STRIKE.

The results of the great Ahmedabad strike up to June 1st are given as follows by the "Rangoon Mail": The textile mills have lost nearly £200,000 sterling in interest, insurance, and other standing charges, and an equal amount in wages. 13,000 lbs. of yarn and 18 million lbs. of cloth have not been produced, and the mill agents have lost £40,000 in commission. The strike has also affected minor trades, such as cinemas, theatres, and hotels. Nearly two-thirds of the strikers have left the city.

The labour union office has found employment for the strikers as follows: 700 in municipal works, 350 in construction of the National University, and 350 in the surrounding villages.

For those who have stayed in the city and cannot find work, the nephew of Gandhi has organised ginning, spinning and weaving in the labour hospital premises. Some of them are doing such odd jobs as fruit selling, hawking cloth, etc. Even the children are earning a few coppers by helping parents in spinning or boot-polishing.

It is interesting to observe that a fellow-worker of Gandhi, S. Banker, is President of the Millowners' Association, and has again and again been arrested by the Government for resistence to Government orders and for non-payment of taxes. The struggle for wealth transcends nationalism.

Sixpence a Day for Miners.

According to the All-Indian Trade Union Congress, twelve cents, or 6d. a day, is the wages of the miners, who number 300,000 in India. This wage is only one-tenth of the value of a month's output. Most of the coal-mines are British owned, and make enormous profits. The lives led by the miners are those of semi-slaves, and prostitution is rampant in the coalfields because the men and women of the coalfields are poverty-striken, hungry and destitute, says a report of the Congress. As a result, thousands die every year of starvation, and millions of disease, since their half-starved bodies can offer no resistance. The infant death-rate mounted not long ago in Bombay to 680 deaths per 1,000 children under one year of age.

Labour and Socialist Papers.

The total Labour Press, as the pro-Labour papers of the bourgeoisie is called there, number only six papers for all India. There are of these two for railway men, one for clerks (in Calcutta), one for postal employees, one Socialist (Bombay), and for the Madras labourers. The last is the oldest, having existed two years.

A new Labour Party, calling itself Communist, but having no connection with Moscow, has been formed in India, being affiliated to the Indian National Congress. It advocates non-co-operations and passive resistance like the Congress.

The "Journal of Industries and Labour" (February) and "Labour Gazette" (May) report:

In 1921 there arose about 400 conflicts between Capital and Labour in India, which affected over one and a-half million labourers and led to a loss of six and a-half million working days. In 1922 there were 278 conflicts, involving nearly half a million workers and leading to a loss of nearly four million working days. The industries chiefly affected are jute, railway, including workshops, textile, engineering. The conflicts arose on wages 46 per cent., personnel 18 per cent., working hours 12 per cent. Employers won 67 per cent. of conflicts, labourers 12 per cent., and compromised 9 per cent.

The official statistics for the strike movement in India for eight provinces during the first quarter of 1923 report 72 disputes. The number of workers involved was 68,789, with a loss of 317,783 working days. Thirty-three of the disputes occurred in cotton mills, eight in jute mills. Wage disputes, 35 cases, bonus question 5 cases, personnel 14 cases, leave and hours of work 3 cases. Eighteen cases ended in success for the workers, 43 unsuccessful for them, 8 partially won, 2 pending and 2 indefinite. On account of the steady increase of strikers, the Government has decided to publish periodical reports.

NINETY-FIVE PER CENT. LIVE ON RICE.

The May number of the London "Labour Gazette" gave the following report of the Bombay labour office about the condition of workers in the city. The report extends to 2,437 workers' families and 603 single workers' families and 603 single workers. Of the total, 49.5 per cent. were factory men. The average family consists of 1.1 male, 1.1 female, and 2 children, besides 6 relatives outside the city. Average weekly income, 17/5. Most earn only 13/- per week. Food consists of only rice for 95 per cent. of the families. Beef is eaten by 5.5 per cent. of the workmen, mutton by 68.58 per cent., milk used by 47.7 per cent., and clarified butter by 48.9 per cent. 97 per cent. of the families have only one room. In 1921 there existed 3,125 one-room quarters occupied by two or more families. Of these, 1,955 were occupied by two, 558 by three, 242 by four, 136 by five, 42 by six, 34 by seven, and 58 by 8 and more families. The beds were used in common by different persons. Forty-seven per cent. of the families were indebted to moneylenders, who charge 75 and more per cent. interest per annum; 37.2 per cent. buy on credit, and 29 per cent. pay partly cash and the rest on credit.

The "Vanguard" of June 1st reported that the strike in Burman oilfields had continued for more than two months, the number of strikers having increased to 12,000. The smaller office employees also have gone with the labourers. The main demands are wage increase and equality with American skilled workmen, the oldfields being under the management of the Standard Oil Co. The Americans receive 300 dollars a month, while the Burmans only have from 12 to 25 dollars.

The same paper reports that more than 2,000 workers of the woollen mills in Cawnpore have gone on strike to realise bonus. The Union of the town is considered one of the best organised.

When you have read this copy, please pass it on to a friend who is not at present a subscriber, and help to increase the circulation of the "Dreadnought."

REMEMBER.

Dear Comrade,—I have been glad to notice a great demand for literature during the dock strike, and especially the big sales of the "Workers' Dreadnought." So many people were seen reading it, sometimes at one particular spot, that one might have thought it contained the latest winners.

One often notices during a crisis that the workers are eager to buy literature, and comrades in the movement are active in selling it; but after the crisis has passed for the moment, the old apathy is apt to return. Yet if the same intensive propaganda were carried on continuously we should soon obtain that much-to-be-desired result—a high standard of consciousness amongst the workers. Then we might look with confidence for a speedy solution of the evils now oppressing us.

I want to appeal to comrades in the dock areas to maintain and extend the present literature sales, whether the strike continues or not. I, for one, will do my bit.

DOCKER.

THIS CIVILISATION.

On the night of July 17th, at Regent's Dock, Stepney, a ship was being unloaded by scab labour. A crowd had congregated consisting of strikers, sympathisers, interested sightseers. Children, women and girls were present in large numbers. All went well, and everybody was quiet, peaceful and orderly. Occasionally a scab would be escorted from the dock by mounted police to a waiting bus or tram, at which there would be some shouting and a little excitement.

About 10.45 p.m. some of the onlookers began to disperse, when suddenly a small lorry came on the scene, loaded with meat, which was not covered up and obviously not scab stuff. (It was later proved to be horseflesh). The driver was asked by the strikers to stop, which he did. One of the strikers then proceeded to interview him, but as the striker climbed on the cart one of the pieces of meat was dislodged and came tumbling off.

This was enough; a sergeant who was standing close by blew a few blasts on his whistle. Then the police, with drawn batons, came up in dozens and proceeded to beat the surprised striker unmercifully. The police were indeed the only strikers (with batons).

In a few seconds heaps of human beings were lying about the road. People were going down to the baton irrespective of age or sex. Old men, young men, women and girls, and even children, could be seen lying in the road. The police had gone mad—was it with fear?

The scene, terrible as it was, cannot be compared with the awful feeling of anguish and anger experienced when the shrill hysterical cries and the heartfelt sorrowful sobs of the mothers and girls were heard.

Old men, fallen and bleeding, women crying, people injured in all directions, not attempting to fight. Did this stop the ruthless conduct of the police? No. The men had not come to fight. The police realised this; and where there's no danger there's no fear," so the police proceeded again to beat all who came within reach of their baton, irrespective of age or sex. Their work finished, I left the scene of action a tired, heavy-hearted, sad being.

Was this the result of 2,000 years' civilisation? Was this humanity? Mr. Policeman, a strike is an expression and a reflection of that primitive desire in mankind to feed the young. When wages and conditions do not allow such facilities, men fight with the only legal weapon at their disposal, the power to strike.

You, Mr. Policeman, are then called upon by the oppressors to defeat the strikers. When the boss, with your help, has succeeded, you, in your turn, as workers, will be attacked and your wages will be reduced, which will mean suffering to you and yours.

Try and remember you are wage-workers, subject to the same laws and conditions as your fellow-workers.

Think a little before you act again. Be honourable, be men, and, above all, be human.

JIM BELLAMY.

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To protest against the imprisonment of our comrade NESTOR MACHNO by the Polish Government and against the Russian Government's demand for his transfer to Russia.

Speakers:
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